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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Albania/USSR

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DATE DISTR. 9 March 1950 50X1-HUM

SUBJECT Alleged Soviet Activities at Vlone

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1. The port of Vlone is said to be one of the largest Soviet centers in Albania; before the war, during which the town suffered great damage, Vlone numbered 9,000 inhabitants, a figure which had risen to 14,000 by June 1948, when the authorities began a systematic evacuation of the Albanian population. So far, 3,000 have allegedly been evacuated and a further 2,000 were to leave the town before 1950. Evacuation was being carried out by Lieutenant-Colonel Mehmet Doku, Chief of the "Drejtoria e Divisionat Mbrojtjes Popullit Vlone" under the direction of Soviet Captain Terchenko of the Soviet Military Mission.
2. Evacuation was also to be effected of a certain number of the population in such localities as Arta, Svrreec, Pagdana, Corica, Panaia, Selovec, Skrofotine, Cerkovina, Hoshtima, Bestrova, Grabian, Coprat, Risili, Banaqe Madhe, Vishbardha, Drashovica, Vodica, Milona, Lapardha, Mazhar, Gumenica, Gjormi, Gombocar, Kishë Marmiroit, Mahmudaga, Shenkoll, Radhima, Jonufri, Ujt's Flohte, Kaninë, Skelja e Vlone.
3. the reason for the evacuations is threefold:
 - a. The speeding up of Soviet strategic works in the concession zone of Vlone.
 - b. The necessity of finding accommodation for Soviet nationals in Vlone and neighborhood.
 - c. The necessity of camouflaging various Soviet economic operations.*
4. The Soviet colony in Vlone and neighborhood number 2,000 (including families). There is a special shop for Soviet nationals in the former Hotel "Gambino", which also houses the Soviet officers' mess.
5. More than 600 skilled workmen (allegedly mostly Letts and Estonians), who arrived from the USSR in the spring of 1949, are engaged on construction work in the Soviet zone of Vlone. They are reportedly housed on Kaninë Island (south of Vlone).

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Comment: this latter connection cites Soviet traffic in Albanian oil All Albanian petrol depots are guarded by Soviet military personnel, and access is forbidden to all Albanians.

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